

made for all the species of *Diospyros* which may in any way be of value for breeding purposes or as a stock. Special interest may attach to *Diospyros peregrina* (No. 28584), from Sibpur, Calcutta, from the fact that the expressed juice when boiled with powdered charcoal is used on a large scale for paying the bottoms of boats and that an excellent glue is made from the juice by the natives of the Malabar coast. *Diospyros montana cordifolia* (No. 28684), a tree which is found from the Himalayas to Australia and which bears small fruits the size of cherries, and *Diospyros microcarpa* from Australia (No. 28343) have also been secured.

Two strains of maize from the Kalahari Desert region of South Africa (Nos. 28614 and 28615) and a form from Zomba, Nyasaland Protectorate (No. 28661), may interest the corn breeders.

Dr. A. Weberbauer, whose collections in the Peruvian Andes are well known, has sent two wild forms of *Solanum* from the region about Lima. One, which he believes to be *Solanum maglia*, is from the cool, cloudy Loma region and the other from the same vegetation zone is an undetermined form (Nos. 28656 and 28657).

Western China is known to have many wild species of *Rubus*, some of which are reported to bear fruit of unusual excellence. The vigor of the Chinese brambles and the early-ripening habit of certain of those already introduced have attracted the attention of plant breeders in this field, and the introduction of a species from the top of Mount Omei, on the Upper Yangtze, described by the sender, Dr. Edgar T. Shields, of Yachow, as "a delicious large yellow raspberry" can scarcely fail to attract their attention.

Two of the best fruits of the Malay Archipelago are the ramboetan and the kapoelasan, species of *Nephelium*. A Wardian-case shipment has been made from Java, containing three varieties of the latter (Nos. 28332 to 28334) and seven varieties of the former (Nos. 28335 to 28341), and an attempt will be made to propagate these on various stocks for distribution in Porto Rico, Hawaii, and the Panama Canal Zone.

Dr. L. Trabut, the veteran experimenter of Algiers, has sent in seeds of the remarkably alkali-resistant grass *Festuca fenas* (No. 28355) from the Shott Khreida.

A collection of medicagos and trifoliums from Beirut, Turkey, containing six species (Nos. 28788 to 28793) will be of use to those breeding these leguminous plants.

The khat plant of Yemen, on the west coast of Arabia, has been in cultivation for generations. Its fresh leaves are chewed by the Arabs almost universally in that region. To them life and hard work would be unendurable without khat, and every coolie, even the poorest, buys the leaf. The plant yields a marketable crop the sec-